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(71) Applicants: BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE [US/US]; Texas Medical Center, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030 (US). COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY [US/US]; 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724 (US).					
(72) Inventors: WOO, Savio, L., C.; 5343 Rutherford, Houston, TX 77096 (US). NORDLOH, Peter, W.; Apartment 330, 3601 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX 77019 (US). STENLUND, Arne; 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724 (US).					
(74) Agents: WARBURG, Richard, J. et al.; Lyon & Lyon, 611 West Sixth Street, 34th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 (US).					
(54) Title: EPISOMAL VECTORS FOR GENE THERAPY					
(57) Abstract					
<p>An episomal vector system and methods for use in gene therapy in humans and animals. The vector contains a papilloma virus origin of replication, a vector maintenance sequence, a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence, a second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence, and a third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence or an E1/E2 fusion gene. The vector is capable of episomal replication in human or animal cells.</p>					

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DESCRIPTION

EPISOMAL VECTORS FOR GENE THERAPY

The invention was partially supported by a grant from the United States under DK-44080 awarded by the National Institute of Health. The government may have certain rights in the invention.

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Background of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to episomal vector systems for gene therapy and methods of attaining episomal vector replication in human and other animal cells. The episomal vector systems contain papilloma 10 virus nucleic acid sequences.

The papillomaviruses are widely found in nature and have been recognized primarily in higher vertebrates. They have been characterized from cattle, rabbits, horses, dogs, sheep, elk, deer, nonhuman primates, the harvest 15 mouse, the multimammate mouse and humans. Over 50 distinct human papilloma viruses ("HPV") have been described. Genomic sequences of several of these, including HPV-1, HPV-11, HPV-16 and HPV-18 have been determined.

20 The papillomaviruses are highly species specific and have a specific tropism for squamous cells. Viral replication is restricted to the most terminally differentiated keratinocytes of the epithelium, although viral DNA can be found within basal and parabasal cells of 25 a papilloma. Viral transcripts have been found in the basal cells of the epidermis, but late gene expression occurs only in the terminally differentiated cells. Thus, viral replication is latent in basal cells and productive 30 in the more terminally differentiated cells within the upper layers of the epithelium.

Papillomaviruses encode trans-acting factors that modulate viral transcription. The first of these factors to be described was the E2 protein. The E2 Open Reading Frame ("ORF") contains domains that are relatively well-
5 conserved among the papillomaviruses. E2 proteins are DNA-binding proteins which consist of two highly conserved domains joined by a more degenerate central region which is considered to be a linker region. Limited homology of E2 protein with the cellular oncogene c-mos has been
10 noted.

There is a subgroup of papilloma viruses, which includes Bovine papilloma virus type 1 ("BPV-1") that can readily transform a variety of rodent cells in culture. BPV-1 is a small, non-enveloped, icosahedral DNA virus
15 which causes cutaneous fibropapillomas in cattle and an equine sarcoid tumor in horses. The BPV-1 genome is a double stranded, closed circle of 7,945 base pairs. The entire sequence is known. The virus infects both dermal fibroblasts and epidermal epithelial cells but viral
20 particles are produced only in terminally differentiated epidermal keratinocytes. Currently there are no means to propagate the virus in culture. The cloned viral DNA can transform mouse C127I fibroblasts in culture in which the viral DNA is maintained as a multicopy extrachromosomal
25 nuclear plasmid with a stable copy number of 50-100 copies per cell.

A 5.4 kb subgenomic fragment of the viral genome (referred to as the '69% region') is sufficient for transformation of C127I cells *in vitro* and contains all
30 eight of the viral open reading frames. At the 5' end of the 69% fragment there is a 1 kb stretch devoid of open reading frames referred to as the upstream regulatory region. This region contains several promoters/enhancers and the viral origin of replication. In cells transformed
35 by the virus, only a few of the viral open reading frames are expressed. The viral origin of replication has been mapped and sequenced. The human papilloma viruses contain

genes and replication control sequences similar to those found in BPV-1 and other papilloma viruses.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides papilloma virus 5 episomal vector systems and methods for papilloma virus episomal vector replication in a variety of human and animal cells not normally permissive for replication of a particular papilloma virus or for maintenance of a particular papilloma virus sequence. There are provided 10 episomal vector systems containing papilloma virus E1 and E2 genes and a papilloma virus origin of replication. These vectors are capable of episomal replication and due to their small size allow for insertion of a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence, which may be efficiently expressed 15 in a human or other animal cell.

In a first aspect the invention features an episomal vector system for gene therapy in humans or animals which contains a polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence from a papilloma virus, the polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence 20 including an origin of replication, a vector maintenance sequence, a first promoter and a unique restriction site for insertion of one or more therapeutic nucleic acid sequences; a first expression cassette containing a papilloma E1 gene sequence and a second promoter to drive 25 transcription of the E1 gene; a second expression cassette containing a papilloma E2 gene sequence and a third promoter to drive transcription of the E2 gene; the first and second expression cassettes cloned into an episomal vector; and the episomal vector system includes one or 30 more episomal vectors, each capable of episomal replication in a human or other animal cell.

In a preferred embodiment this invention features an episomal vector system for gene therapy in humans or animals which contains a polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence from BPV-1 (nucleotides 4780 to 471 from the BPV-1 genome, (e.g., 3636 bp in length)) in a vector, SEQ. ID.

NO. 1, the polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence including an origin of replication, a vector maintenance sequence, a first promoter and a unique restriction site for insertion of one or more therapeutic nucleic acid 5 sequences; a first expression cassette containing a BPV-1 E1 gene sequence, SEQ. ID. NO. 2, and a second promoter to drive transcription of the E1 gene; a second expression cassette containing the BPV-1 E2 gene sequence, SEQ. ID. NO. 3, and a third promoter to drive transcription of the 10 E2 gene; the first and second expression cassettes cloned into an episomal vector; and the episomal vector system includes one or more episomal vectors each, capable of episomal replication in a human or animal cell.

In another preferred embodiment this invention 15 features an episomal vector system for gene therapy in humans or animals which contains a polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence from a Human papilloma virus ("HPV") in a vector, the polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence including an origin of replication, a vector maintenance sequence, 20 a first promoter and a unique restriction site for insertion of one or more therapeutic nucleic acid sequences; a first expression cassette containing a HPV E1 gene sequence and a second promoter to drive transcription of the E1 gene; a second expression cassette containing a 25 HPV E2 gene sequence and a third promoter to drive transcription of the E2 gene; the first and second expression cassettes cloned into a vector; and the episomal vector system includes one or more episomal vectors each, capable of episomal replication in a human 30 or animal cell.

The term "vector" as used herein refers to nucleic acid derived from a plasmid, cosmid, phagemid or bacteriophage, into which fragments of nucleic acid may be inserted or cloned. The vector can contain one or more 35 unique restriction sites for this purpose, and may be capable of autonomous replication in a defined host or organism such that the cloned sequence is reproduced. The

vector molecule can confer some well-defined phenotype on the host organism which is either selectable or readily detected. Some components of a vector may be a DNA molecule further incorporating a DNA sequence encoding 5 regulatory elements for transcription, translation, RNA stability and replication.

The term "origin of replication" refers to a papilloma virus DNA sequence at which nucleic acid, typically DNA, synthesis is initiated. The minimal 10 sequence for the BPV-1 origin of replication is defined by a 41 nucleotide sequence containing bases 7935 to 30. Those of ordinary skill in the art can determine other minimum sequences in other papilloma viruses using routine procedures.

15 The term "vector maintenance sequence" refers to a *cis*-acting nucleic acid sequence contained in a vector and which confers long term stable vector replication to the vector. A vector containing a vector (plasmid) maintenance sequence will remain unarranged and stably 20 maintained at a constant copy number. See Lusky, M. et al., Characterization of the Bovine Papilloma Virus Plasmid Maintenance Sequences. Cell 36(2) 391-401 (1984).

25 The term "therapeutic nucleic acid sequence" as used herein refers to a genetic material of interest which expresses a protein, polypeptide or RNA when incorporated into the cell of an animal or human. A therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is positionally and sequentially oriented within the episomal vector with other necessary elements such that the therapeutic nucleic acid sequence 30 or sequences can be transcribed and when necessary translated into the cells in which the episomal vector has been incorporated. Other elements can include promoters, introns, untranslated regions, non-coding regions, regulatory regions, etc. One skilled in the art will be 35 able to determine the specific necessary elements for each specific sequence and application.

The genetic material which is incorporated into the therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences can be any DNA or RNA. For example, the nucleic acid can be: (1) not normally found in the tissues of the cell; (2) 5 normally found in a specific tissue but not expressed at physiologically significant levels; (3) normally found in specific tissue and normally expressed at physiological levels in the specific tissue; (4) any other DNA or RNA which can be modified for expression in a specific tissue 10 and (5) any combination of the above.

Examples of some therapeutic nucleic acid sequences which may be incorporated in an episomal vector includes the following. Therapeutic nucleic acid sequences selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid 15 sequences encoding receptors, enzymes, ligands, regulatory factors, and structural proteins. Therapeutic nucleic acid sequences selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding nuclear proteins, cytoplasmic proteins mitochondrial proteins, secreted 20 proteins, plasmalemma-associated proteins, serum proteins, viral antigens, bacterial antigens, protozoal antigens and parasitic antigens. Therapeutic nucleic acid sequences selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding proteins, lipoproteins, glycoproteins, 25 phosphoproteins and nucleic acid. Proteins or polypeptides which can be expressed using the episomal vector of the present invention include hormones, growth factors, enzymes, clotting factors, apolipoproteins, receptors, drugs, oncogenes, tumor antigens, tumor 30 suppressors, viral antigens, parasitic antigens and bacterial antigens. Specific examples of these compounds include proinsulin, insulin, growth hormone, androgen receptors, insulin-like growth factor I, insulin-like growth factor II, insulin-like growth factor binding 35 proteins, epidermal growth factor TGF- α , TGF- β , PDGF, angiogenesis factors (acidic fibroblast growth factor, basic fibroblast growth factor and angiogenin), matrix

proteins (Type IV collagen, Type VII collagen, laminin), phenylalanine hydroxylase, tyrosine hydroxylase, oncogenes (ras, fos, myc, erb, src, sis, jun), E6 or E7 transforming sequence, p53 protein, Rb gene product, cytokine receptor, 5 IL-1, IL-6, IL-8, viral capsid protein, and proteins from viral, bacterial and parasitic organisms which can be used to induce an immunologic response, and other proteins of useful significance in the body. The compounds which can be incorporated are only limited by the availability of 10 the nucleic acid sequence for the protein or polypeptide to be incorporated. One skilled in the art will readily recognize that as more proteins and polypeptides become identified they can be integrated into the episomal vector and expressed in the animal or human tissue.

15 The term "expression cassette" as used herein refers to a nucleic acid sequence which is capable of being transcribed and translated to result in production of a polypeptide.

The term "E1 gene sequence" as used herein means a 20 gene which encodes the E1 polypeptide which is the protein product of the E1 open reading frame of a papillomavirus. The E1 protein possesses the ability to bind to homologous or heterologous a cis-acting DNA sequence, e.g., a papillomavirus origin of replication region, thereby 25 targeting this region for the initiation of DNA synthesis by cellular DNA-synthesis proteins.

The term "E2 gene sequence" as used herein means a gene which encodes the E2 polypeptide which is the protein product of the E2 open reading frame of a papillomavirus. 30 The E2 protein possesses the ability to trans-activate, in the presence of the papillomavirus E1 protein, the replication of homologous or heterologous DNA containing a cis-acting DNA sequence, e.g., a papillomavirus origin of replication region, by cellular DNA-synthesis proteins.

35 Further, any such nucleic acid sequence which encodes a portion of an E1 or E2 protein which exhibits the functional characteristics of an E1 or E2 protein as

defined above are within the preferred embodiment. These protein sequences comprising less than a whole E1 or E2 protein but which are nevertheless functional, may be mapped by mutational analysis or various clones may be 5 created and the activity of proteins expressed from such clones assayed or other routine testing as is known in the art may be utilized.

In another preferred embodiment the first and/or second and/or third promoter may be a steroid regulated 10 promoter, regulatable by a steroid hormone receptor gene switch as set forth in United States patent application entitled "Mutated Steroid Hormone Receptors, Methods for their Use and Molecular Switch for Gene Therapy" filed September 2, 1993, Serial No. 07/939,246, incorporated 15 herein by reference. By including these steroid regulatable elements, the administration of a steroid hormone analog will induce episomal replication. Cessation of administration of the steroid hormone will result in the cessation of episomal vector replication. 20 The episomal vector systems of this invention have a discrete half-life. Once replication of the episomal vectors has ceased, degradation of the episomal vectors results in the effective elimination of the episomal vector from the human or other animal cell in which it was 25 contained. Alternatively, other methods of regulating the replication of the episomal vectors, by the administration of a substance which activates an administered-compound-regulatable promoter are within the scope of the present invention. By "administered-compound-regulatable 30 promoter" is meant a promoter which is activated in response to a exogenously administered substance, where the administered substance is not typically present in a human or other animal.

In another embodiment, an episomal vector containing 35 a thymidine kinase gene may be administered. Upon administration a substrate for thymidine kinase, as is known in the art, a toxic, phosphorylated nucleic acid

base is generated which results in cell death, effectively causing the cessation of production of any other gene product contained in an administered episomal vector.

In specific embodiments of the present invention the 5 first, second or third promoters can be identical or can be different when the promoter is from a ubiquitously expressed gene. Specific examples of ubiquitously expressing promoters include phosphoglycerolkinase, Rous Sarcoma Virus Long Terminal Repeat ("RSV-LTR"), Immediate 10 Early Cytomegalovirus ("IE-CMV") or dihydrofolate reductase ("DHFR") promoters.

In specific embodiments of the present invention the first, second and third promoters can be identical or can be different when the promoter is from a gene expressed in 15 a tissue-specific manner. However, where the tissue-specific promoters are different, they must all be capable of providing expression in a specific tissue type. For example three different liver specific promoters may be utilized. Examples of tissue-specific promoters include 20 creatine kinase promoter, insulin promoter, immunoglobulin heavy chain promoter/enhancer, albumin enhancer/promoter, tyrosine aminotransferase promoter, transferrin promoter, cytochrome P-450 promoter, apolipoprotein E promoter, apolipoprotein A-1 promoter and β -actin promoter for liver 25 expression, elastin, alpha-1 (I) collagen, keratin K1, K6 and loricrin for skin expression; alpha actin, beta myosin heavy chain, myosin light chain, aldolase A for muscle expression; type 4 collagenase, Clara protein, serine dehydratase for lung expression; myelin basic protein, 30 beta amyloid precursor protein, glutamine synthetase, tyrosine hydroxylase for brain expression; globin, Immunoglobulin heavy and light chains for blood cell expression; and osteonectin, osteocalcin, osteopontin for bone expression.

35 The term "tissue-specific promoter" means that the promoter will allow transcription of RNA from the vector primarily only in a specific tissue in which the promoter

is activated. For example, muscle cell specific promoters will only allow transcription in muscle cells. However, even with tissue-specific promoters some low level (about 10% or less than that observed in the desired tissue) 5 expression might occur in other cell types. The promoter would still be defined as tissue-specific. Methods of achieving tissue-specific gene expression as set forth in International Publication No. WO 93/09236, filed November 3, 1992 and published May 13, 1993; International 10 Application No. PCT/US93/03993, filed April 28, 1993; International Application No. PCT/US93/03985, filed April 28, 1993; and U.S. patent application entitled "Specific Expression Vectors and Methods of Use", filed November 1, 1993 and U.S. patent application entitled "Keratin K1 15 Expression Vectors and Methods of Use"; all (including drawings) are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

In preferred embodiments either the albumin enhancer/promoter, IE-CMV, RSV-LTR or DHFR promoters are used.

20 In one preferred embodiment the E1 and E2 or E1/E2 gene fusion sequences are a distance of at least about 1 Kb 5' and 3' from the origin of replication.

In another embodiment of the present invention the origin of replication may be selected from one type of 25 papilloma virus, for example BPV-1, and the E1 gene sequence may be selected from the same papilloma virus or another papilloma virus, for example HPV, and the E2 gene sequence may be selected from the same type of papilloma virus as used for the origin of replication or for the E1 30 gene sequence or a different papilloma virus than one or both of the papilloma viruses from which the origin of replication and E1 gene sequence were selected from. Combinations of, or parts thereof, such as the origin of replication, E1 gene sequence and E2 gene sequence or 35 E1/E2 gene fusion sequence, as set forth above, may be combined in a vector and assayed as is known in the art to determine functional combinations thereof.

Another embodiment of the present invention includes the use of an E1/E2 fusion gene. In this embodiment, to insure that both the E1 and E2 gene sequences are expressed the E1 and E2 gene sequences are linked by the 5 use of internal ribosome entry sites from the encephalomyocarditis ("EMC") or polio virus in the production of polycistronic messages. By linking both the E1 and E2 gene sequences, both proteins would be encoded on a single mRNA species to insure production of both In 10 this embodiment, only one ribonucleic acid species, translation of which will result in the production of two separate proteins, would be necessary to support maintenance of episomal replication. The fusion gene will contain at least the trans-activation region of the E2 15 protein.

In another embodiment of the invention a papilloma virus origin of replication and a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and a 20 papilloma virus origin of replication, a second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence and a third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a second episomal vector.

25 Alternatively, a papilloma virus origin of replication, a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence and either one of a second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence or a third promoter 30 transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and a papilloma virus origin of replication, and the other one of a second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence and a third promoter 35 transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a second episomal vector.

Alternatively, a three vector system may be utilized,

each vector containing a papilloma virus origin of replication, and one episomal vector containing a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence. A second episomal vector containing a 5 second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence. A third episomal vector containing a third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence.

In yet another embodiment, a papilloma virus origin 10 of replication and a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and a second promoter transcriptionally linked to an E1/E2 fusion gene sequence, the fusion gene sequence containing at least the trans- 15 activation region of the E2 gene sequence, are contained on a second episomal vector. In all of the above multiple vector systems, the separate vectors are co-administered such that all species of vector are present in at least some of the same cells.

20 In another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a method of stably transforming a cell in a human or other animal cell which is accomplished by introducing the episomal vector into the cell. Once introduced into the cell, a stably transformed cell is 25 made.

The term "stable transformation" as used herein refers to episomal transformation in which the introduced therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences is not incorporated into the chromosomes of the whole cell, but 30 rather is replicated as an extra-chromosomal element. This leads to a stable change or transformation of a given characteristic of a cell.

The term "transformed" as used herein refers to a process for making or introducing a stable change in the 35 characteristics (express phenotype) of a cell by the mechanism of gene transfer whereby DNA or RNA is introduced into a cell in a form where it expresses a

specific gene product or alters an expression of or affects endogenous gene products. In the present invention this process involves the introduction of the episomal vector into the cell. The episomal vector can be 5 introduced into the cell by a variety of methods including microinjection, CaPO_4 precipitation, lipofection (liposome fusion), use of a gene gun and DNA vector transporter.

The term "DNA vector transporter" as used herein refers to those molecules which bind to the episomal 10 vector system of the present invention and are capable of being taken up by cells. A DNA transporter is a molecular complex capable of non-covalent binding to the DNA of the episomal vector system and efficiently transporting the DNA through the cell membrane. Although not necessary, it 15 is preferable that the transporter also transport the DNA through the nuclear membrane.

In another embodiment of the present invention there is provided the use of the episomal vector system for gene therapy treatment of uncontrolled cellular proliferative 20 diseases, such as cancer. An episomal vector containing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide which when expressed results in cell death is administered to a human or other animal.

Other and further objects, features and advantages 25 will be apparent from the following description of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention which are given for the purpose of disclosure when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

30 Figure 1 shows a schematic representation of a BPV-1 episomal vector. The viral origin of replication (ORIGIN) and Vector Maintenance Sequence (VMS) locations are indicated within the BPV-1 polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence (nucleotides 4780 to 471 from the BPV-1 genome, 35 3636 bp). The Mlu I site is unique and is used to insert a therapeutic nucleic acid sequences or sequences.

Insertions at this site do not interfere with viral replication.

Figure 2 shows replication of BPV-1 origin-containing plasmids in Hepa1A cells. A transient replication assay 5 using the E1 and E2 expression vector in conjunction with the origin plasmid pUC/Alu (viral sequence 7890-52) or pUC/Pst (viral sequence 4780-471). 10 μ g of the origin plasmid was transfected either alone or with 15 μ g of both the E1 or E2 expression vectors. In each group, the final 10 amount of DNA transfected was brought to 40 μ g with the control plasmid pCMV β gal.

Figure 3 shows replication of BPV-1 origin plasmid only in the presence of both E1 and E2. A transient replication assay using the E1 and E2 expression vectors 15 as the only source of viral trans replication factors. 10 μ g of the origin plasmid pUC/Pst (viral sequence 4780-471) was transfected either alone or with 15 μ g of one or both of the E1 or E2 expression vectors. In each group, the final amount of DNA transfected was brought to 40 μ g with 20 the control plasmid pCMV β gal.

Figure 4 shows a BPV-1 genomic map.

The drawings are not necessarily to scale. Certain features of the invention may be exaggerated in scale or shown in schematic form in the interest of clarity and 25 conciseness.

Detailed Description of the Invention

A variety of eukaryotic expression vectors have been constructed from the BPV-1 genome utilizing the 69% region to drive episomal replication in C127I cells. These 30 vectors have been used to study inducible elements as well as to synthesize a variety of compounds. All of these studies have been carried out in C127I or ID-13 cells (derived from C127I cells which contain multiple integrated copies of the BPV-1 genome and produce viral 35 proteins.) It is known that the viral E1 and E2 proteins are necessary in conjunction with the origin of

replication to support episomal replication of plasmids containing the origin.

When transfected into a variety of cell lines, including HeLa, CV-1 and 293, the plasmids containing an 5 endogenous viral promoter to drive transcription of the viral open reading frames encoded in E1 and E2 and a viral origin do not replicate. However, when the immediate early cytomegalovirus (IECMV) promoter was used to drive the expression of E1 and E2, episomal replication was 10 observed. The cell types used, however, are all epithelial or fibroblast-like and these are the cell types normally permissive for BPV-1 replication. It would be useful to have a vector for gene therapy which would replicate in a broad range of cell types and allow for 15 expression of a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences contained in the vector.

Current approaches to gene therapy for, for example, liver diseases fall into two main categories with respect to overall mechanism and delivery--viral and non-viral. 20 Non-viral methods of delivery such as receptor-mediated DNA delivery have been used to introduce DNA to the liver *in vivo*. Only transient expression has been observed from constructs targeted to the liver without prior partial hepatectomy. If a partial hepatectomy proceeds the 25 introduction of the DNA/protein conjugate, the period of expression is extended, but not indefinitely.

The ability to achieve long-term expression of targeted DNAs in which the risks and costs of invasive surgical procedure such as partial hepatectomy are avoided 30 is of great importance. The present invention utilizing an episomally replicating vector containing portions of a papilloma virus genome provides a solution to this problem. Particular regions of the BPV-1 genome can be stimulated in the quiescent liver or other tissues and can 35 be stably maintained long-term when targeted to the liver or other organs by receptor-mediated DNA delivery.

One embodiment of the present invention includes an episomal vector system for gene therapy in humans or animals comprising a polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence of BPV-1 in a vector, the polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence including an origin of replication, a vector maintenance sequence a first promoter and a unique restriction site; for example, a unique Mlu I or other restriction enzyme site as are known in the art, for insertion of one or more therapeutic nucleic acid sequences; a first expression cassette containing the BPV-1 E1 gene sequence and a second promoter to drive transcription of the E1 genes; a second expression cassette containing the BPV-1 E2 gene sequence and a third promoter to drive transcription of the E2 gene; the first and second expression cassettes cloned into the vector and the episomal vector system includes one or more episomal vectors each, capable of episomal replication in a human or animal cell.

One skilled in the art recognizes that a variety of vectors will work. In Figure 1 there is shown a schematic representation of the BPV-1 episomal vector using a pUC 19 plasmid. The "BPV-1 origin" region is approximately 1457 base pairs in length and includes a nucleotide sequence from 6959 to 7945/1 and 7945/1 to 470 of the BPV-1 genome.

The origin of replication and plasmid maintenance sequence locations are indicated within the BPV-1 polyfunctional nucleic acid sequence. The origin of replication corresponds to nucleotide 7945/1 of the BPV-1 genome. The minimal sequence for the BPV-1 origin of replication is defined by a 41 nucleotide sequence containing bases 7935 to 30.

In one embodiment a unique Mlu I site is used to insert a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences. Insertions at this site do not interfere with viral replication. In Figure 1 there is also shown the E1 gene sequence and an E2 gene sequence with their promoters. The promoters can be identical or different. The location

of the E1 and E2 gene sequences to the origin of replication is not important; except that they must be at least about 1 kb 5' and 3' from the origin of replication, otherwise they will interfere with replication of the 5 episomal vector.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention the episomal vector mimics the arrangements of the E1 and E2 gene sequences relative to the replication origin found in the viral genome. The insertion of strong heterologous 10 promoters in close proximity to the BPV-1 origin of replication interferes with replication. For this reason, promoters driving the expression of the E1 and E2 gene sequences are placed away from the viral origin to minimize this "squelching effect." In one example the E1 15 and E2 gene sequences are oriented in a head-to-tail arrangement of the basic layout of the episomal vector as depicted in Figure 1. One skilled in the art recognizes that this is for example purposes and that a variety of other arrangements are readily determined. The vector is 20 constructed to allow for the insertion of different promoter elements upstream of the E1 and E2 gene sequences. Unique cloning sites are also present at various sites in the construct to allow for the insertion of reporter and or therapeutic nucleic acid sequences.

25 One skilled in the art will readily recognize that the first, second and third promoters can be identical or different. They can be from ubiquitously expressed genes or from tissue-specific expressed genes. However, where the tissue-specific promoters are different, they must all 30 be capable of providing expression in a specific tissue type. For example, three different liver specific promoters may be utilized. Examples of some promoters which have been found useful in the present invention include the promoter for ubiquitously expressed genes 35 including phosphoglycerokinase, IE-CMV, RSV-LTR or DHFR.

Tissue-specific promoters include insulin promoter for pancreatic expression, creatine kinase promoter for

skeletal muscle expression, immunoglobulin heavy chain promoter/enhancer for B-cell expression, albumin enhancer/promoter, tyrosine aminotransferase promoter, transferrin promoter, cytochrome P-450 promoter,
5 apolipoprotein E promoter, apolipoprotein A-1 promoter and β -actin promoter for liver expression, elastin, alpha-1 (I) collagen, keratin for skin expression; alpha actin, beta myosin heavy chain, myosin light chain, aldolase A for muscle expression; type 4 collagenase, Clara protein,
10 serine dehydratase for lung expression; myelin basic protein, beta amyloid precursor protein, glutamine synthetase, tyrosine hydroxylase for brain expression; globin, Immunoglobulin heavy and light chains for blood cell expression; and osteonectin, osteocalcin, osteopontin
15 for bone expression.

One skilled in the art readily recognizes that specific promoters can be used in brain, lung, bone, blood and other tissues.

An alternate approach to insure that both the E1 and
20 E2 gene sequences are expressed is to make sure that both E1 and E2 are linked by the use of internal ribosome entry sites from the encephalomyocarditis ("EMC") or polio virus in the production of polycistronic messages. By linking both the E1 and E2 gene sequences, both proteins would be
25 encoded on a single mRNA species to insure production of both.

One skilled in the art will readily recognize that the most important criteria used in the selection of a promoter to drive the expression of the E1 and E2 viral
30 replication factors and the reporter gene nucleic acid sequences or therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences is the ability of that promoter to drive long-term expression in the tissue of choice. Tissue specificity can be achieved at the level of delivery and
35 promoters will not be eliminated as potential candidates should they be expressed in tissues other than the specific tissue of interest. Each therapy will have its

own set of constraints with respect to the specificity of expression required and the level necessary for the treatment to have efficacy. In the preferred vectors, the primary objective is to achieve the highest sustained 5 level of expression possible. Modulation of expression is undertaken when specific therapy requirements become apparent.

The long terminal repeat of the Rous Sarcoma Virus (RSV-LTR) is used in the preferred embodiment. The RSV-10 LTR promoter is capable of driving high levels of expression both in cultured episomal cells and in primary hepatocytes and a variety of other tissues. High level expression is seen in hepatocytes transduced both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The LTR of Moloney Murine leukemic virus 15 has also been used to drive expression *in vivo*.

In using the tissue-specific promoters, the albumin enhancer/promoter has been the preferred embodiment for liver cells. The albumin enhancer/promoter is a strong promoter relative to other promoters expressed in the 20 liver. This promoter has been found to drive long-term expression in both primary hepatocytes and retrovirally transduced implanted hepatocytes. An additional advantage of this promoter is the tissue specificity of the albumin regulatory regions. Any leakiness in the delivery system 25 will be less likely to drive transcription in any tissues other than the liver.

One skilled in the art readily recognizes the most efficient application of the papilloma virus episomal replication system *in vivo* requires that the E1 and E2 30 gene sequences and the therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, origin of replication and vector maintenance sequences are all contained in a single vector. The arrangement of these elements for optimum replication and maintenance will depend on the type of tissue being 35 transformed, as well as the specific therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences being used. In devising the optimization strategy for a vector construction, it is

important to consider the location of the gene sequences relative to the origin, selection of the promoter, potential recombination between homologous sequences and the overall size of the vector as it pertains not so much 5 to delivery but to replication efficiency. Within these constraints one skilled in the art will readily recognize how to optimize this arrangement for each specific use. The Hepa1A replication assay system described in Example 2 can be used to optimize the vectors for these criteria.

10 Administration

The episomal vector containing a particular therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences can be administered prophylactically, or to patients having a disease or condition treatable by supplying and expressing 15 a particular therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, e.g., by exogenous delivery of a naked episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence associated with specific carriers, 20 by means of an appropriate delivery vehicle, e.g., a liposome, by use of iontophoresis, electroporation and other pharmacologically approved methods of delivery. Routes of administration may include intramuscular, intravenous, aerosol, oral (tablet or pill form), topical, 25 systemic, ocular, as a suppository, intraperitoneal and/or intrathecal.

The specific delivery route of an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences will depend on the use of the episomal vector.

30 Some methods of delivery that may be used include:

- a. encapsulation in liposomes,
- b. localization to nuclear compartment utilizing nuclear targeting site found on most nuclear proteins,
- c. transfection of cells *ex vivo* with subsequent reimplantation or administration of the transfected cells,

d. a DNA transporter system.

At least three types of delivery strategies are useful in the present invention, including: Injection of naked episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, or injection of charge modified episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, or particle carrier drug delivery vehicles. Unmodified nucleic acid sequence encoding episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, like most small molecules, are taken up by cells, albeit slowly. To enhance cellular uptake, the episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences may be modified in ways which reduce its charge but will maintain the expression of specific functional groups in the final translation product. This results in a molecule which is able to diffuse across the cell membrane, thus removing the permeability barrier.

Chemical modifications of the phosphate backbone will reduce the negative charge allowing free diffusion across the membrane. This principle has been successfully demonstrated for antisense DNA technology which shows that this is a feasible approach. In the body, maintenance of an external concentration will be necessary to drive the diffusion of the modified nucleic acid sequence encoding episomal vectors containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences into the cells of the tissue. Administration routes which allow the tissue to be exposed to a transient high concentration of the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences, which is slowly dissipated by systemic adsorption are preferred. Intravenous administration with a drug carrier designed to increase the circulation half-life of the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences can be used. The size and composition of the drug carrier

restricts rapid clearance from the blood stream. The carrier, made to accumulate at the desired site of transfer, can protect the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid 5 sequence or sequences from degradative processes.

Drug delivery vehicles are effective for both systemic and topical administration. They can be designed to serve as a slow release reservoir, or to deliver their contents directly to the target cell. An advantage of 10 using direct delivery drug vehicles is that multiple molecules are delivered per uptake. Such vehicles have been shown to increase the circulation half-life of drugs which would otherwise be rapidly cleared from the blood stream. Some examples of such specialized drug delivery 15 vehicles which fall into this category are liposomes, hydrogels, cyclodextrins, biodegradable nanocapsules, and bioadhesive microspheres.

From this category of delivery systems, liposomes are preferred. Liposomes increase intracellular stability, 20 increase uptake efficiency and improve biological activity.

Liposomes are hollow spherical vesicles composed of lipids arranged in a similar fashion as those lipids which make up the cell membrane. They have an internal aqueous 25 space for entrapping water soluble compounds and range in size from 0.05 to several microns in diameter. Several studies have shown that liposomes can deliver nucleic acids to cells and that the nucleic acid remains biologically active.

30 For example, a liposome delivery vehicle originally designed as a research tool, Lipofectin, has been shown to deliver intact mRNA molecules to cells yielding production of the corresponding protein.

Liposomes offer several advantages: They are non- 35 toxic and biodegradable in composition; they display long circulation half-lives; and recognition molecules can be readily attached to their surface for targeting to

tissues. Finally, cost effective manufacture of liposome-based pharmaceuticals, either in a liquid suspension or lyophilized product, has demonstrated the viability of this technology as an acceptable drug delivery system.

5 Other controlled release drug delivery systems, such as nanoparticles and hydrogels may be potential delivery vehicles for a nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences. These carriers have been developed for
10 chemotherapeutic agents and protein-based pharmaceuticals, and consequently, can be adapted for nucleic acid delivery.

Chemical modification of the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic
15 nucleic acid sequence or sequences to neutralize negative charge may be all that is required for penetration. However, in the event that charge neutralization is insufficient, the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid
20 sequence receptor can be co-formulated with permeability enhancers, such as Azone or oleic acid, in a liposome. The liposomes can either represent a slow release presentation vehicle in which the modified nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a
25 therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences and permeability enhancer transfer from the liposome into the targeted cell, or the liposome phospholipids can participate directly with the modified nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a
30 therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences and permeability enhancer can participate directly thereby facilitating cellular delivery. In some cases, both the nucleic acid encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences and
35 permeability enhancer can be formulated into a suppository formulation for slow release.

The nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences may also be systemically administered. Systemic absorption refers to the accumulation of drugs in the 5 blood stream followed by distribution throughout the entire body. Administration routes which lead to systemic absorption include: intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal, intranasal, intrathecal and ophthalmic. A gene gun may also be utilized.

10 Administration of DNA-coated microprojectiles by a gene gun requires instrumentation but is as simple as direct injection of DNA. A construct bearing the gene of interest is precipitated onto the surface of microscopic metal beads. The microprojectiles are accelerated with a

15 shock wave or expanding helium gas, and penetrate tissues to a depth of several cell layers. This approach permits the delivery of foreign genes to the skin of anesthetized animals. This method of administration achieves expression of transgenes at high levels for several days

20 and at detectable levels for several weeks. Each of these administration routes exposes the nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences to an accessible targeted tissue. Subcutaneous administration drains into

25 a localized lymph node which proceeds through the lymphatic network into the circulation. The rate of entry into the circulation has been shown to be a function of molecular weight or size. The use of a liposome or other drug carrier localizes the nucleic acid sequence encoding

30 an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence at the lymph node. The nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences can be modified to diffuse into the cell, or the liposome can directly

35 participate in the delivery of either the unmodified or modified nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or

sequences to the cell. Liposomes injected intravenously show accumulation in the liver, lung and spleen. The composition and size can be adjusted so that this accumulation represents 30% to 40% of the injected dose.

5 The remaining dose circulates in the blood stream for up to 24 hours.

The chosen method of delivery should result in cytoplasmic accumulation and molecules should have some nuclease-resistance for optimal dosing. Nuclear delivery 10 may also be used. Most preferred delivery methods include liposomes (10-400 nm), hydrogels, controlled-release polymers, microinjection or electroporation (for ex vivo treatments) and other pharmaceutically applicable vehicles. The dosage will depend upon the disease 15 indication and the route of administration but should be between 1-1000 μ g/kg of body weight/day. The duration of treatment will extend through the course of the disease symptoms, possibly continuously. The number of doses will depend upon disease delivery vehicle and efficacy data 20 from clinical trials.

Another method of administration involves the use of a DNA transporter system for inserting specific DNA into a cell. The DNA transporter system comprises a plurality of a first DNA binding complex, the complex including a 25 first binding molecule capable of non-covalently binding to DNA, the first binding molecule covalently linked to a surface ligand, the surface ligand capable of binding to a cell surface receptor; a plurality of a second DNA binding complex, the complex including a second binding 30 molecule capable of non-covalently binding to DNA, the second binding molecule covalently linked to a nuclear ligand, the nuclear ligand capable of recognizing and transporting a transporter system through a nuclear membrane; wherein the plurality of first and second DNA 35 binding complexes are capable of simultaneously, non-covalently binding to a specific DNA.

Additionally, a plurality of a third DNA binding complex may be used, the complex includes a third binding molecule capable of non-covalently binding to DNA, the third binding molecule covalently linked to a virus; 5 wherein the plurality of third DNA binding complexes are capable of simultaneously, non-covalently binding to a specific DNA.

The first binding molecule, the second binding molecule and third binding molecule can each be selected 10 from the group consisting of spermine, spermine derivative, histones, cationic peptides and polylysine. Spermine derivative refers to analogues and derivatives of spermine and include compounds as set forth in International Publication No. WO 93/18759, filed March 19, 15 1993 and published September 30, 1993, hereby incorporated by reference.

Establishment of therapeutic levels of nucleic acid sequence encoding an episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences within the 20 cell is dependent upon the rates of uptake and degradation. Decreasing the degree of degradation will prolong the intracellular half-life of the episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences. Descriptions of useful systems are provided in 25 the art cited above, all of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

An episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences may be administered utilizing an *ex vivo* approach whereby cells are removed from an 30 animal, transduced with the episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences and reimplanted into the animal. The liver can be accessed by an *ex vivo* approach by removing hepatocytes from an animal, transducing the hepatocytes *in vitro* with the 35 episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences and reimplanting them into the animal (e.g., as described for rabbits by Chowdhury et

al., *Science* 254:1802-1805, 1991, or in humans by Wilson, *Hum. Gene Ther.* 3:179-222, 1992) incorporated herein by reference.

The episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences may be administered utilizing an *in vivo* approach whereby the gene will be administered directly to an animal by intravenous injection, intramuscular injection, or by catheterization and direct delivery of the gene via the blood vessels supplying the target organ.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration and are not intended to limit the invention in any manner.

Example 1: Construction of an Episomal Vector

The parent plasmid for this construction is pUCPst which consists of pUC18 containing the BPV-1 sequence between bases 4780 and 471 bp (3636bp). The origin of replication in this plasmid is located at base 7945/1. The unique sites in the multiple cloning region of pUCPst are used for the insertion of gene sequences for E1 and E2. IECMV promoter driven cassettes for E1 and E2 are obtained with EcoRI (5') to XhoI (3') digests of pCGEAG and pCGE2. The ends of these fragments are filled in with the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase and linkers are added. The gene sequences are then cloned into the Hind III (E2) and Bam HI sites (E1), in a head to tail configuration as depicted in Figure 1.

Example 2: Replication Assay for Use in the Episomal Cells

The method of Ustav and Stenlund, "Transient Replication of BPV-1 Requires Two Viral Polypeptides Encoded by the E1 and E2 Open Reading Frames" *EMBO J.* 10:449-457 (1991) is used for the replication assay in episomal cells. The origin plasmid designated pUC/Alu contains the viral sequences between 7890 and 52 (107 bp)

in pUC19. The plasmid pUC/Pst contains a viral sequence between 4780 and 471 (3636 bp). The expression vectors for E1 and E2 are driven by the IECMV promoter. The cells (10^7) are mixed with a total of 40 μ g of DNA and 500 μ l of serum-containing media. Electroporation is then carried out in the Gene-Pulsar apparatus (Bio-Rad) with a 230-Volt, 960 μ Fd pulse. Cells are pelleted through 10 ml of serum-containing media and plated on 6 x 10 cm dishes. Extrachromosomal DNA is prepared at 24-hour time points and half of the recovered DNA was digested with BamHI and DpnI, electrophoresed on 0.8%, 1X TAE gels and Southern blotted. Filters were hybridized with pUC19 sequences generated by radioactive labelling with random primers. The results obtained from mouse hepatoma cell lines HepaIA are shown in Figure 2. Time points in each set are 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 hours.

Newly replicated material in mammalian cells was resistant to digestion by DpnI while residual bacterial plasmid DNAs were sensitive. The DpnI resistant material (replicated DNA) is linearized by BamHI and forms a 2793 bp band for replicated pUC/Alu (see Control Lane 1 and Lane 7-11), and a 6322 bp band for replicated pUC/Pst (see Control Lane 2 and Lanes 14-18). The DpnI sensitive material (unreplicated DNA) forms a series of lower molecular weight bands. Cells which receive the origin plasmid in the absence of the E1 and E2 expression vectors were completely devoid of any replicated material (see Lanes 5, 6, 12 and 13). This data indicates that both plasmids replicated in the presence of the viral E1 and E2 polypeptides. The amount of replicating material did not appear to increase significantly after 24 hours, but ori plasmids were maintained at steady state levels with time while the unreplicated input material was gradually lost.

Example 3: Requirement of E1 and E2 to Support Episomal BPV-1 Replication

Hepa1A cells are transfected in four sets. Each set contains 10 μ g of larger ori plasmid pUC/Pst. The first set (Figure 3, Lanes 1-4) contained the 30 μ g of pCMV β gal in addition to the origin plasmid as control. The second 5 set (Figure 3, Lanes 5-8) contained 15 μ g of pCMV-E1 and pCMV β gal. The third set contained 15 μ g each of pCMV-E2 and pCMV β gal. The final set (Figure 3, Lanes 9-12) contained 15 μ g each of pCMV-E1 and pCMV-E2. The time 10 points for each set are 24, 48, 72 and 96 hours post-transfection. Results demonstrate that there is an absolute requirement for E1 and E2 to support episomal 15 BPV-1 replication in hepatoma cells. Similar results were also obtained in two human hepatoma cell lines, HepG2 and PLC. These results demonstrate that the viral origin-containing plasmids replicate episomally in a variety of cell types outside of epithelial and fibroblast lineages. Examples of other cell types which will support episomal 20 vector replication include cells of endothelial, hematopoietic, muscle, nervous and glandular origin.

20 Example 4: Measurement of E1 and E2

Cells are transfected as described previously and whole cell lysates made at various time points post-transfection. Samples are then subjected to RIA analysis with monoclonal antibodies. Bacterially expressed E1 and 25 E2 peptides are used as the standards for this quantitative analysis.

Example 5: Episomal Vectors in Primary Hepatocytes

Confluent cultures of primary hepatocytes are maintained in serum-free media for periods up to one 30 month. Primary hepatocyte cultures are used for assessment of plasmid stability and copy number over a longer time frame than possible for proliferating hepatoma cells or C127I cells. Technically these cells closely 35 approximate the *in vivo* condition of the quiescent liver with respect to transcription and replication. The rate

of transfection of primary hepatocytes with lipofection is approximately 5% to 10%. To control for differences in transfection efficiencies between samples it is advantageous to lipofect a pool of cells. Twenty-four 5 hours post-transfection the cells are trypsinized and split between a number of plates to be harvested and assayed at various time points (2-30 days post-transfection). Mouse hepatocytes are plated at a high density (3-4 X 10⁶ cells) in 150 mm dishes in 15 ml of 10 hormonally defined, serum-deficient media. Approximately 20-40 µg of DNA in 150 µl of water is mixed with 150 µg of Lipofection (Gibco/BRL, Gaithersburg, Maryland) in 150 µl water and added to cells for 16 hours in 5% CO₂ incubator maintained at 37°C. Media is aspirated and replaced. 15 Twenty-four hours later cells are trypsinized and replated in multiple 6 cm dishes. At various time points post-transfection cells are harvested and replication assays performed as described in Example 2. In addition, the stability of the input DNA is determined. Long-term 20 maintenance of the targeted DNA even in the absence of episomal replication can be important in achieving long-term expression.

When it is difficult to trypsinize and replate the cells after lipofection, parallel lipofections are carried 25 out with the inclusion of pCMVβgal as an internal control to eliminate differences in transfection efficiencies. Immunoprecipitation is performed to determine the levels of E1 and E2 produced. The integrity of the plasmids are assayed by restriction mapping to determine the presence 30 of rearrangements. Integrity of the vector after one month and a primary hepatocyte indicates potential stability when introduced to liver *in vivo*.

Example 6: Production Assay BPV-1 Based Episomal Expression

The use of DNA/Protein complexes allows tissue-specific delivery of the DNA, by utilizing a protein that is recognized by a tissue-specific receptor. Hepatocytes contain a unique receptor which recognizes the galactose moiety of asialoglycoproteins (ASGP). Orosomucoid (OR) is a highly glycosylated serum protein which upon treatment with neuraminidase yields asialoorosomucoid (ASOR) (M.W. 40,000-60,000), and is cleared rapidly from circulation by the ASGP receptor. This liver specific receptor is present at approximately 500,000 receptors per hepatocyte. The large number of receptors greatly enhances the delivery capacity of DNA/Protein complexes to hepatocytes in the liver and as a result this type of delivery is very efficient in the expression of desired gene products in the liver.

The delivery of the episomal vector DNA by DNA/protein complexes to hepatocytes *in vivo* is used to achieve concentrations of E1 and E2 necessary to support episomal replication in mice. The amount of complex, in terms of DNA, injected varies depending upon the amount that gives maximum expression without side effects to the animal. In rats (200-250 grams) approximately 0.5 - 1 milligram of complex (based on DNA amount), in 0.15 M saline, in a volume of 1000 μ l, was injected into the tail vein. This resulted in 2-5 μ g of DNA being injected per gram body weight, at a concentration of 0.5 - 1 μ g/ μ l. Various amounts of complex, ranging from 0 to 500 μ g (DNA based), in 0.15 M saline, are injected at a concentration of 1 μ g/ μ l into the tail vein in two groups of mice (8-10 weeks in age). Control animals are injected with the following at the same DNA concentrations; 1) a mixture of DNA and ASOR, 2) a mixture of DNA and poly-L-lysine, 3) 0.15 M saline. The analysis of the DNA that has been delivered to the liver and the levels of E1 and E2 produced are measured. In addition, the replication status of the DNA present is determined with the use of DpnI digestion and Southern blotting. Two groups of

duplicate C57/B6 mice are injected with the optimum amount of DNA, after which the animals are sacrificed at 0, 12, 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours post-injection. The livers are removed and the levels of replicated DNA is determined.

5 The intensity of the hybridizing signal is compared to control DNA to estimate how much DNA is present and its half-life in the liver.

The levels of E1 and E2 are measured. A set of C57/B6 mice are injected with the maximal amount of DNA. 10 The animals are sacrificed weekly during the first month and then monthly thereafter. The livers are removed, and the levels of the viral proteins are determined by RIA as described in Example 4.

Example 7: Gene Therapy Treatment of Cancer

15 For the treatment of proliferative disease or cancer, the episomal vector of the present invention can be used. In the treatment, a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences is inserted into the episomal vector and a therapeutic dose is introduced into the animal or human to 20 be treated. For example, thymidine kinase or another gene whose product results in cell death is delivered to the cancerous cells. A variety of delivery methods are available to those skilled in the art to specifically deliver the vector to the proliferative or cancer cells.

25 Example 8: In vitro Production of a Therapeutic Gene Product Utilizing a Papilloma Virus Episomal Vector

A specific cell line, for example a fibroblast or myoblast or hepatocyte or other cell line may be 30 transformed with a papilloma virus episomal vector containing a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences. Expression of the therapeutic nucleic acid sequence or sequences will result in production of a polypeptide or polypeptides encoded by the therapeutic 35 nucleic acid sequence or sequences. The polypeptide(s)

may be harvested as is known in the art and utilized to treat a particular disease or condition. Alternatively, the harvested polypeptide(s) may be useful in an affinity chromatography column to bind and isolate a ligand.

5 Additionally, the harvested polypeptide(s) may be used to raise antibodies, such as monoclonal antibodies, in a suitable animal. The episomal vector allows for the efficient and versatile production and isolation of a polypeptide for the above recited uses.

10 All patents and publications mentioned in this specification are indicative of the levels of those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains. All patents and publications are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual

15 publication is specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and obtain the ends and advantages mentioned, as well as those inherent therein. The episomal vectors along with the methods, procedures, treatments, molecules, and specific compounds described herein are presently representative of preferred embodiments, are exemplary and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other uses will occur to those skilled in the art which are encompassed within the spirit of the invention and are defined by the scope within the claims.

"Sequence Listing"**(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:**

(i) APPLICANT: WOO, SAVIO L. C.
NORDLOH, PETER W.
STENLUND, ARNE

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: EPISOMAL VECTORS FOR GENE THERAPY

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 3

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: Lyon & Lyon
(B) STREET: 611 West Sixth Street
(C) CITY: Los Angeles
(D) STATE: California
(E) COUNTRY: USA
(F) ZIP: 90017

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: 3.5" Diskette, 1.44Mb storage
(B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: IBM MS-DOS (Version 5.0)
(D) SOFTWARE: WordPerfect (Version 5.1)

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
(B) FILING DATE:
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

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(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: Warburg, Richard J.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 32,327
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 204/252

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: (213) 489-1600
(B) TELEFAX: (213) 955-0440
(C) TELEX: 67-3510

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH:	3637
(B) TYPE:	nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:	single
(D) TOPOLOGY:	linear

(ii) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

CTGCAGCTGC	AATCGTCCAT	TGCAGAAACA	TCTGGTTAG	AAAATATTTT	50
TGTAGGAGGC	TCGGGTTAG	GGGATACAGG	AGGAGAAAAC	ATTGAACCTGA	100
CATACTTCGG	GTCCCCACGA	ACAAGCACGC	CCCGCAGTAT	TGCCTCTAAA	150
TCACGTGGCA	TTTTAAACTG	GTTCAGTAAA	CGGTACTACA	CACAGGTGCC	200
CACGGAAGAT	CCTGAAGTGT	TTTCATCCCA	AACATTTGCA	AACCCACTGT	250
ATGAAGCAGA	ACCAGCTGTG	CTTAAGGGAC	CTAGTGGACG	TGTTGGACTC	300
AGTCAGGTTT	ATAAACCTGA	TACACTTACA	ACACGTAGCG	GGACAGAGGT	350
GGGACCACAG	CTACATGTCA	GGTACTCATT	GAGTACTATA	CATGAAGATG	400
TAGAAGCAAT	CCCCTACACA	GTTGATGAAA	ATACACAGGG	ACTTGCATTC	450
GTACCCCTTGC	ATGAAGAGCA	AGCAGGTTTT	GAGGAGATAG	AATTAGATGA	500
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ACACGGCCTA	CAGGTGTTGT	AACCTATGGC	TCACCTGACA	CTTACTCTGC	650
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ACGGAAACAT	GCCTAATT	TTTGCAAGAT	GGCGTTGTGG	CAACAAGGCC	850
AGAAGCTGTA	TCTCCCTCCA	ACCCCTGTAA	GCAAGGTGCT	TTGCAGTGAA	900
ACCTATGTGC	AAAGAAAAAG	CATTTTTAT	CATGCAGAAA	CGGAGGCCCT	950
GCTAACTATA	GGACATCCAT	ATTACCCAGT	GTCTATCGGG	GCCAAAAC	1000
TTCCTAAGGT	CTCTGCAAAT	CAGTATAGGG	TATTTAAAAT	ACAACTACCT	1050
GATCCCAATC	AATTTGCACT	ACCTGACAGG	ACTGTTCACA	ACCCAAGTAA	1100

AGAGCGGCTG GTGTGGCAG TCATAGGTGT GCAGGGTGTCC AGAGGGCAGC 1150
CTCTTGGAGG TACTGTAACG GGGCACCCCA CTTTTAATGC TTTGCTTGAT 1200
GCAGAAAATG TGAATAGAAA AGTCACCACC CAAACAACAG ATGACAGGAA 1250
ACAAACAGGC CTAGATGCTA AGCAACAAACA GATTCTGTTG CTAGGCTGTA 1300
CCCCTGCTGA AGGGGAATAT TGGACAACAG CCCGTCCATG TGTTACTGAT 1350
CGTCTAGAAA ATGGCGCCTG CCCTCCTCTT GAATTAACAA ACAAGCACAT 1400
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TTATTGTTTT TAACAGTGGG GGACAATACA CGTGGTACTA ATCTTACCAT 1850
AAGTGTAGCC TCAGATGGAA CCCCCTAAC AGAGTATGAT AGCTCAAAT 1900
TCAATGTATA CCATAGACAT ATGGAAGAAT ATAAGCTAGC CTTTATATTA 1950
GAGCTATGCT CTGTGGAAAT CACAGCTCAA ACTGTGTCAC ATCTGCAAGG 2000
ACTTATGCC CTCGTGCTTG AAAATTGGGA AATAGGTGTG CAGCCTCCTA 2050
CCTCATCGAT ATTAGAGGAC ACCTATCGCT ATATAGAGTC TCCTGCAACT 2100
AAATGTGCAA GCAATGTAAT TCCTGCAAAA GAAGACCCCTT ATGCAGGGTT 2150
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AATTTCCCTT GGGAAAGAAGA TTTTAGCAC AGCAAGGGC AGGATGTTCA 2250
ACTGTGAGAA AACGAAGAAT TAGCCAAAAA ACTTCCAGTA AGCCTGCAA 2300
AAAAAAAAAA AAATAAAAGC TAAGTTCTA TAAATGTTCT GTAAATGTAA 2350
AACAGAAGGT AAGTCAACTG CACCTAATAA AAATCACTTA ATAGCAATGT 2400
GCTGTGTCAG TTGTTTATTG GAACCACACC CGGTACACAT CCTGTCCAGC 2450
ATTTGCAGTG CGTGCATTGA ATTATTGTGC TGGCTAGACT TCATGGCGCC 2500

TGGCACCGAA TCCTGCCTTC TCAGCGAAAA TGAATAATTG CTTTGTGGC 2550
 AAGAAAATAA GCATCAATGG GACCGCGTGC AAGCACCGGC GGCGGTAGAT 2600
 GCGGGGTAAG TACTGAATTT TAATTCGACC TATCCCGGTA AAGCGAAAGC 2650
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 CATTGCGTCT GGGCTTGTCT ATCATTGCGT CTCTATGGTT TTTGGAGGAT 2800
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 TTCATATTAT ATTGAATGGG CGCATAATCA GCTTAATTGG TGAGGACAAG 2950
 CTACAAGTTG TAACCTGATC TCCACAAAGT ACGTTGCCGG TCGGGGTCAA 3000
 ACCGTCTTCG GTGCTCGAAA CCCCCTTAAA CTACAGACAG GTCCCAGCCA 3050
 AGTAGGCCGA TCAAAACCTC AAAAAGGCAG GAGCCAATCA AAATGCAGCA 3100
 TTATATTTA AGCTCACCGA AACCGGTAAG TAAAGACTAT GTATTTTTC 3150
 CCAGTGAATA ATTGTTGTTA ACAATAATCA CACCATCACC GTTTTTCAA 3200
 GCGGGAAAAAA ATAGCCAGCT AACTATAAAA AGCTGCTGAC AGACCCGGT 3250
 TTTCACATGG ACCTGAAACC TTTTGCAAGA ACCAATCCAT TCTCAGGGTT 3300
 GGATTGCTCG TGGTGCAGAG AGCCTCTTAC AGAAGTTGAT GCTTTAGGT 3350
 GCATGGTCAA AGACTTTCAT GTTGTAAATTG GGGAAAGGCTG TAGATATGGT 3400
 GCATGTACCA TTTGTCTTGA AACTGTTTA GCTACTGAAA GAAGACTTTG 3450
 GCAAGGTGTT CCAGTAACAG GTGAGGAAGC TGAATTATTG CATGGCAAAA 3500
 CACTTGATAG GCTTTGCATA AGATGCTGCT ACTGTGGGGG CAAACTAAC 3550
 AAAAATGAAA AACATCGGCA TGTGCTTTT AATGAGCCTT TCTGCAAAAC 3600
 CAGAGCTAAC ATAATTAGAG GACCGCTGCTA CGACTGC 3637

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH:	1451
(B) TYPE:	nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:	single
(D) TOPOLOGY:	linear

(ii) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

ACCTCTGTG TCCACGTTGT GAATCTCGCG AGCGTCATGG CAAACGATAA 50
AGGTAGCAAT TGGGATTCGG GCTTGGGATG CTCATATCTG CTGACTGAGG 100
CAGAATGTGA AAGTGACAAA GAGAATGAGG AACCCGGGGC AGGTGTAGAA 150
CTGTCTGTGG AATCTGATCG GTATGATAGC CAGGATGAGG ATTTTGTGAA 200
CAATGCATCA GTCTTTCAGG GAAATCACCT GGAGGTCTTC CAGGCATTAG 250
AGAAAAAAGGC GGGTGAGGAG CAGATTTAA ATTTGAAAAG AAAAGTATTG 300
GGGAGTTTCGC AAAACAGCAG CGGTTCCGAA GCATCTGAAA CTCCAGTTAA 350
AAGACGGAAA TCAGGAGCAA AGCGAAGATT ATTTGCTGAA AANGAAGCTA 400
ACCGTGTCT TACGCCCTC CAGGTACAGG CGGAGGGGGA GGGGAGGCAA 450
GAACCTTAATG AGGAGCAGGC AATTAGTCAT CTACATCTGC AGCTTGTAA 500
ATCTAAAAAT GCTACAGTTT TTAAGCTGGG GCTCTTAAA TCTTTGTTCC 550
TTTGTAGCTT CCATGATATT ACGAGGTTGT TTAAGAATGA TAAGACCACT 600
AATCAGCAAT GGGTGCTGGC TGTGTTGGC CTTGCAGAGG TGTTTTTGA 650
GGCGAGTTTC GAACTCCTAA AGAAGCAGTG TAGTTTCTG CAGATGCAA 700
AAAGATCTCA TGAAGGAGGA ACTTGTGCAG TTTACTTAAT CTGCTTTAAC 750
ACAGCTAAAA GCAGAGAAAC AGTCCGGAAT CTGATGGCAA ACACGCTAAA 800
TGTAAGAGAA GAGTGTGTTGA TGCTGCAGCC AGCTAAAATT CGAGGACTCA 850
GCGCAGCTCT ATTCTGGTTT AAAAGTAGTT TGTCACCCGC TACACTTAAA 900
CATGGTGCTT TACCTGAGTG GATACTGGCG CAAACTACTC TGAACGAGAG 950
CTTGCAGACC GAGAAATTG ACTTCGGAAC TATGGTGCAA TGGGCCTATG 1000
ATCACAAATA TGCTGAGGAG TCTAAAATAG CCTATGAATA TGCTTTGGCT 1050
GCAGGATCTG ATAGCAATGC ACAGGGCTTTT TTAGCAACTA ACAGCCAAGC 1100
TAAGCATGTG AAGGACTGTG CAACTATGGT AAGACACTAT CTAAGAGCTG 1150
AAACACAAGC ATTAAGCATG CCTGCATATA TTAAAGCTAG GTGCAAGCTG 1200
GCAACTGGGG AAGGAAGCTG GAAGTCTATC CTAACCTTTT TTAACTATCA 1250
GAATATTGAA TTAATTACCT TTATTAATGC TTTAAAGCTC TGGCTAAAAG 1300
GAATTCCAAA AAAAAACTGT TTAGCATTAA TTGGCCCTCC AAACACAGGC 1350

AAGTCTATGC TCTGCAACTC ATTAATTCAT TTTTTGGGTG GTAGTGT 1400
 ATCTTTGCC AACCATAAAA GTCACTTTG GCTTGCTTCC CTAGCAGATA 1450
 C 1451

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH:	1257
(B) TYPE:	nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS:	single
(D) TOPOLOGY:	linear

(ii) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

TTGACGAGGA GGAGGATAGT GAAGAGGATG GAGACAGCAT GCGAACGTTT 50
 ACATGTAGCG CAAGAAACAC AAATGCAGTT GATTGAGAAA AGTAGTGATA 100
 AGTTGCAAGA TCATATACTG TACTGGACTG CTGTTAGAAC TGAGAACACA 150
 CTGCTTATG CTGCAAGGAA AAAAGGGGTG ACTGTCCCTAG GACACTGCAG 200
 AGTACCAACAC TCTGTAGTTT GTCAAGAGAG AGCCAAGCAG GCCATTGAAA 250
 TGCAGTTGTC TTTGCAGGAG TTAAGCAAAA CTGAGTTGG GGATGAACCA 300
 TGGCTTTGC TTGACACAAAG CTGGGACCGA TATATGTCAG AACCTAAACG 350
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 CAAGCAATAAC AAACCTGGTAC ACTGTCTACA GCAATTGTA CATGCGCACA 450
 GAGGACGGCT GGCAGCTTGC GAAGGCTGGG GCTGACGGAA CTGGGCTCTA 500
 CTACTGCACC ATGGCCGGTG CTGGACGCAT TTACTATTCT CGCTTTGGTG 550
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 GACAGAGTGT ATGCTGGTGT CTCATCCACC TCTTCTGATT TTAGAGATCG 650
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 GAAAAGAAGC CGAGCCAGCC CAGCCTGTCT CTTCTTGCT CGGCTCCCCC 750
 GCCTGCGGTC CCATCAGAGC AGGCCTCGGT TGGGTACGGG ACGGTCCTCG 800
 CTCGCACCCC TACAATTTTC CTGCAGGCTC GGGGGGCTCT ATTCTCCGCT 850
 CTTCCCTCCAC CCCGTGCAGG GCACGGTACC GGTGGACTTG GCATCAAGGC 900
 AGGAAGAAGA GGAGCAGTCG CCCGACTCCA CAGAGGAAGA ACCAGTGACT 950

40

CTCCCAAGGC GCACCACCAA TGATGGATTG CACCTGTTAA AGGCAGGGAGG 1000
GTCATGCTTT GCTCTAATTT CAGGAACCTGC TAACCAGGTA AAGTGCTATC 1050
GCTTTCGGGT GAAAAAGAAC CATAGACATC GCTACGAGAA CTGCACCACC 1100
ACCTGGTTCA CAGTTGCTGA CAACGGTGCT GAAAGACAAG GACAAGCACA 1150
AATACTGATC ACCTTTGGAT CGCCAAGTCA AAGGCAAGAC TTTCTGAAAC 1200
ATGTACCACT ACCTCCTGGA ATGAACATTT CCGGCTTTAC AGCCAGCTTG 1250
GACTTCT 1257

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An episomal vector system, comprising:
 - a papilloma virus origin of replication;
 - 5 a vector maintenance sequence;
 - a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence;
 - a second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence; and
 - 10 a third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence;wherein said episomal vector system comprises one or more episomal vectors, each able to replicate as an episome in a human or other animal cell.
- 15 2. The episomal vector system of claim 1 wherein said papilloma virus origin of replication and said first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and said papilloma virus origin of replication, said second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence and said third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a second episomal vector.
- 25 3. The episomal vector system of claim 1 wherein said papilloma virus origin of replication, said first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence and either one of said second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence or said third promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and said papilloma virus origin of replication, and the other one of said second promoter transcriptionally linked to a papilloma virus E1 gene sequence and said third promoter transcriptionally linked

to a papilloma virus E2 gene sequence are contained on a second episomal vector.

4. The episomal vector system of claim 1, wherein said system consists of a single vector.

5 5. An episomal vector system for gene therapy in humans or animals comprising:

a papilloma virus origin of replication;
a vector maintenance sequence;
a first promoter transcriptionally linked to a
10 therapeutic nucleic acid sequence;
a second promoter transcriptionally linked to an E1/E2 fusion gene sequence, said fusion gene sequence containing at least the trans-activation region of the E2 gene sequence; and
15 wherein said episomal vector system comprises one or more episomal vectors, each able to replicate as an episome in a human or other animal cell.

6. The episomal vector system of claim 5, wherein said system consists of a single vector.

20 7. The episomal vector system of claim 5 wherein said papilloma virus origin of replication and said first promoter transcriptionally linked to a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence are contained on a first episomal vector and said second promoter transcriptionally linked to an E1/E2
25 fusion gene sequence, said fusion gene sequence containing at least the trans-activation region of the E2 gene sequence, are contained on a second episomal vector.

8. The episomal vector system of any of claims 1-6 further comprising an administered-compound-regulatable
30 promoter wherein episomal replication occurs upon administration of a compound which interacts with said

administered-compound-regulatable promoter and ceases upon cessation of administration of said compound.

9. The episomal vector system of claim 8 wherein said administered-compound-regulatable promoter is a steroid regulatable promoter and is activated by administration of a steroid hormone or steroid hormone analog.

10. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-6 wherein said origin of replication or said vector maintenance sequence or said E1 sequence or said E2 sequence is from a Human papilloma virus.

11. The episomal vector system as in either one of claims 5-7 wherein said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence is a Human papilloma virus E1/E2 fusion gene sequence.

15 12. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-6 wherein said origin of replication or said vector maintenance sequence or said E1 sequence or said E2 sequence is from a bovine papilloma virus.

20 13. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 5-7 wherein said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence is a bovine papilloma virus E1/E2 fusion gene sequence.

25 14. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-4 wherein said origin of replication, said E1 gene sequence and said E2 gene sequence are from a Human papilloma virus.

15. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-4 wherein said origin of replication, said E1 gene sequence and said E2 gene sequence are from BPV-1.

16. The episomal vector system as in any one of claims 5-7 wherein said origin of replication, and said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence are from BPV-1.

17. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 5 1-4 wherein said origin of replication is selected from one type of papilloma virus, and said E1 gene is selected from the same papilloma virus or another papilloma virus, and said E2 gene is selected from the same type of papilloma virus as used for said origin of replication and 10 for said E1 gene or a different papilloma virus than one or both of the papilloma viruses from which said origin of replication and said E1 gene were selected.

18. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-4 wherein said origin of replication is selected from 15 one type of papilloma virus, and said E1 gene is selected from the same papilloma virus or another papilloma virus, and said E2 gene is selected from the same type of papilloma virus as used for said origin of replication or for said E1 gene or a different papilloma virus than one 20 or both of the papilloma viruses from which said origin of replication and said E1 gene were selected.

19. The episomal vector as in any one of claims 5-7 wherein said origin of replication is selected from one type of papilloma virus, and said E1 gene sequence 25 encoding the E1 portion of said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence is selected from the same papilloma virus or another papilloma virus, and said E2 gene sequence encoding the E2 portion of said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence is selected from the same type of papilloma virus as used for said 30 origin of replication or for said E1 gene sequence or a different papilloma virus than one or both of the papilloma viruses from which said origin of replication and said E1 gene sequence were selected.

20. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-4 wherein one or more of said first, second and third promoters confer tissue-specific expression to a first, second and third gene respectively under their control.

5 21. The episomal vector system of claim 20, wherein said promoters are tissue-specific promoters selected from the group consisting of:

insulin promoter for pancreatic expression;
creatine kinase promoter for skeletal muscle
10 expression;
immunoglobulin heavy chain promoter/enhancer for B-cell expression;
albumin enhancer/promoter, tyrosine amino transferrin promoter, cytochrome P-450 promoter, apolipoprotein E
15 promoter, apolipoprotein A-1 promoter and β -actin promoter for liver expression;
elastin, alpha-1 (I) collagen, keratin K1, K6 and loricrin for skin expression;
alpha actin, beta myosin heavy chain, myosin light
20 chain, aldolase A for muscle expression;
type 4 collagenase, Clara protein, serine dehydratase for lung expression;
myelin basic protein, beta amyloid precursor protein, glutamine synthetase, tyrosine hydroxylase for brain
25 expression;
globin, Immunoglobulin heavy and light chains for blood cell expression; or
osteonectin, osteocalcin, osteopontin for bone expression.

30 22. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 15 or 16 wherein said origin of replication is contained within a nucleic acid sequence of about 3636 base pairs in length, and includes a nucleic acid sequence from Bovine papilloma virus type 1 from about nucleotide 6959 to
35 7945/1 and 7945/1 to about 471, wherein said Bovine

papilloma virus type 1 nucleotide 7945/1 is within said origin of replication sequence of Bovine papilloma virus type 1.

23. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 5 1-4 wherein both said second and third promoters are the same.

24. The episomal vector system of claim 23, wherein said promoters are an RSV-LTR.

25. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 10 1-4 wherein said E1 and E2 gene sequences are a distance of at least about 1 Kb 5' and 3' from said origin of replication.

26. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 5-7 wherein said E1/E2 fusion gene sequence is a distance 15 of at least about 1 Kb 5' and 3' from said origin of replication.

27. The episomal vector system as in any of claims 1-4 wherein said second and third promoters are albumin enhancer/promoters and the human or other animal cell is 20 a hepatocyte.

28. A method of providing to a human or another animal a therapeutic nucleic acid sequence for gene therapy comprising the step of administering an episomal vector as in any of claims 1-6 containing said therapeutic 25 nucleic acid sequence to a human or said other animal.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding enzymes, ligands, regulatory factors, and structural proteins.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding nuclear proteins, cytoplasmic proteins mitochondrial proteins, 5 secreted proteins, plasmalemma-associated proteins, serum proteins, viral antigens, bacterial antigens, protozoal antigens and parasitic antigens.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein said therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group 10 consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding proteins, lipoproteins, glycoproteins, phosphoproteins and nucleic acid.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein said therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group 15 consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding hormones, growth factors, angiogenesis factors, matrix factors, enzymes, clotting factors, apolipoproteins, receptors, drugs, oncogenes, tumor antigens, tumor suppressors, viral antigens, parasitic antigens or bacterial antigens.

20 33. The method of claim 28 wherein the therapeutic nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid sequences encoding proinsulin, insulin, growth hormone, androgen receptors, insulin-like growth factor I, insulin-like growth factor II, insulin-like 25 growth factor binding proteins, epidermal growth factor TGF- α , TGF- β , PDGF, acidic fibroblast growth factor, basic fibroblast growth factor, angiogenin, Type IV collagen, Type VII collagen, laminin, phenylalanine hydroxylase, tyrosine hydroxylase, ras, fos, myc, erb, 30 src, sis, jun, E6 transforming sequence, E7 transforming sequence, p53 protein, Rb gene product, cytokine receptor, IL-1, IL-6, IL-8 or viral capsid protein.

34. A method of stably transforming a cell in a human or other animal comprising the step of introducing an episomal vector as in any of claims 1-5 into said human or other animal cell.

5 35. A method of regulatably controlling episomal vector replication comprising the steps of administering an episomal vector as in claim 6 and administering or ceasing to administer a compound which interacts with said administered-compound-regulatable-promoter.

10 36. A method of for causing cessation of production of a therapeutic nucleic acid, comprising the step of administering an episomal vector as in any of claims 1-6 wherein said therapeutic nucleic acid of said episomal vector codes for a protein which causes cell death.

15 37. The method of claim 36, wherein said protein which causes cell death is thymidine kinase.

38. A method of stably transforming a cell in a human or other animal comprising the step of introducing an episomal vector as in any of claims 1-6 into said human
20 or other animal cell.

39. A method of stably transforming a cell in a human or other animal comprising the step of introducing an episomal vector as in claim 7 into said human or other animal cell.

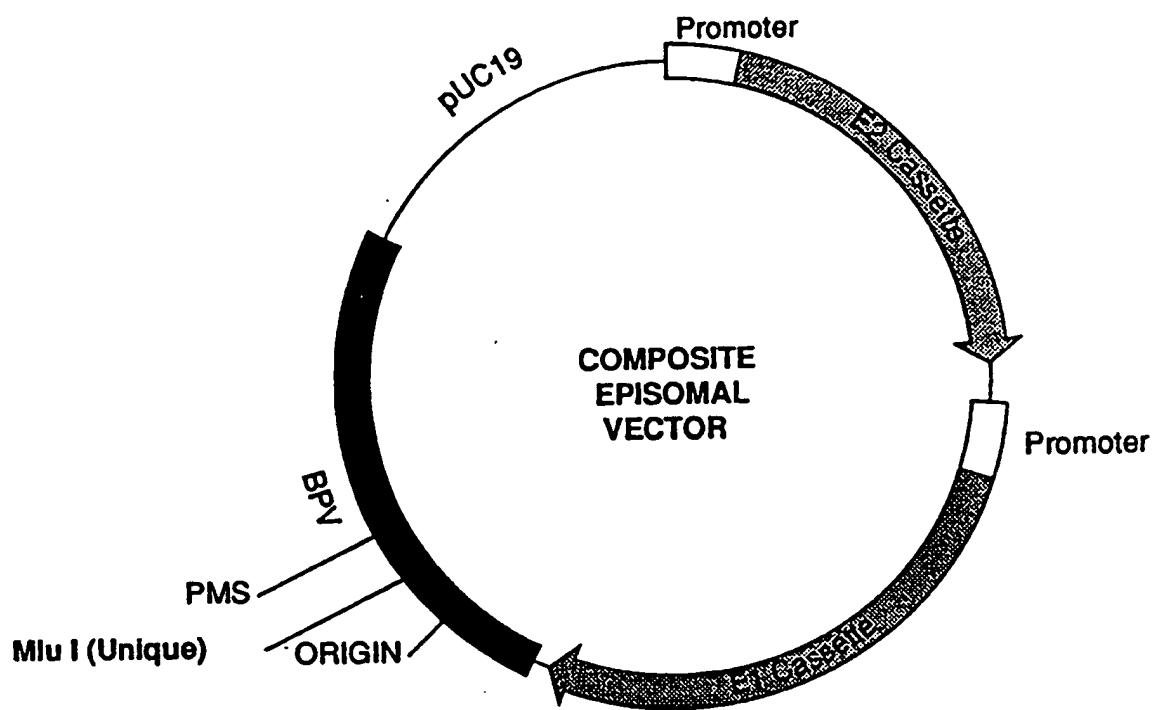


Figure 1

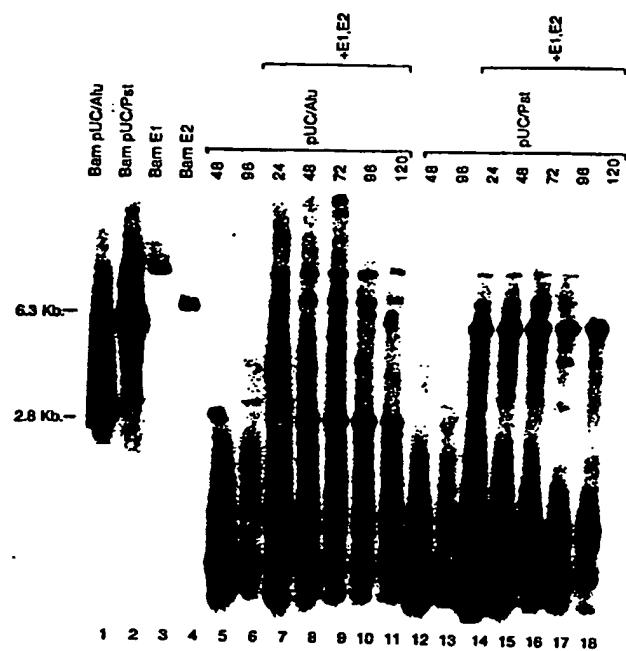


Figure 2

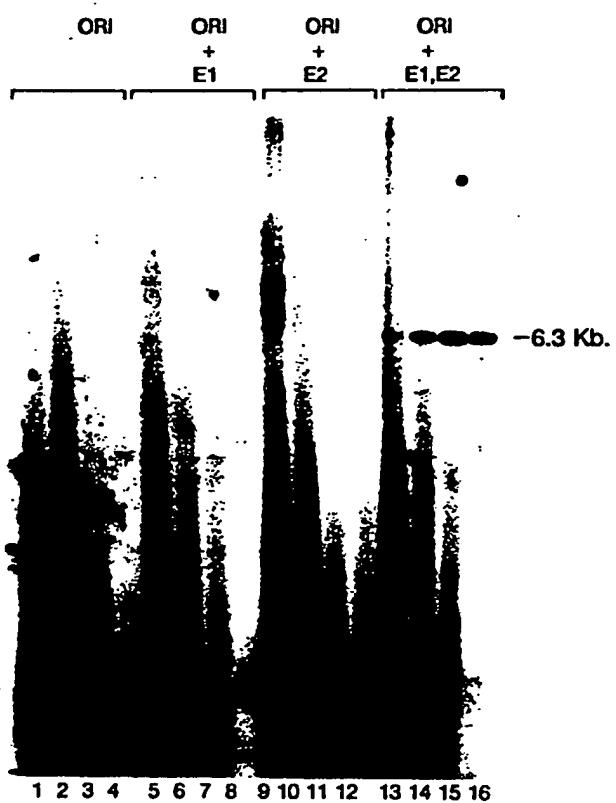
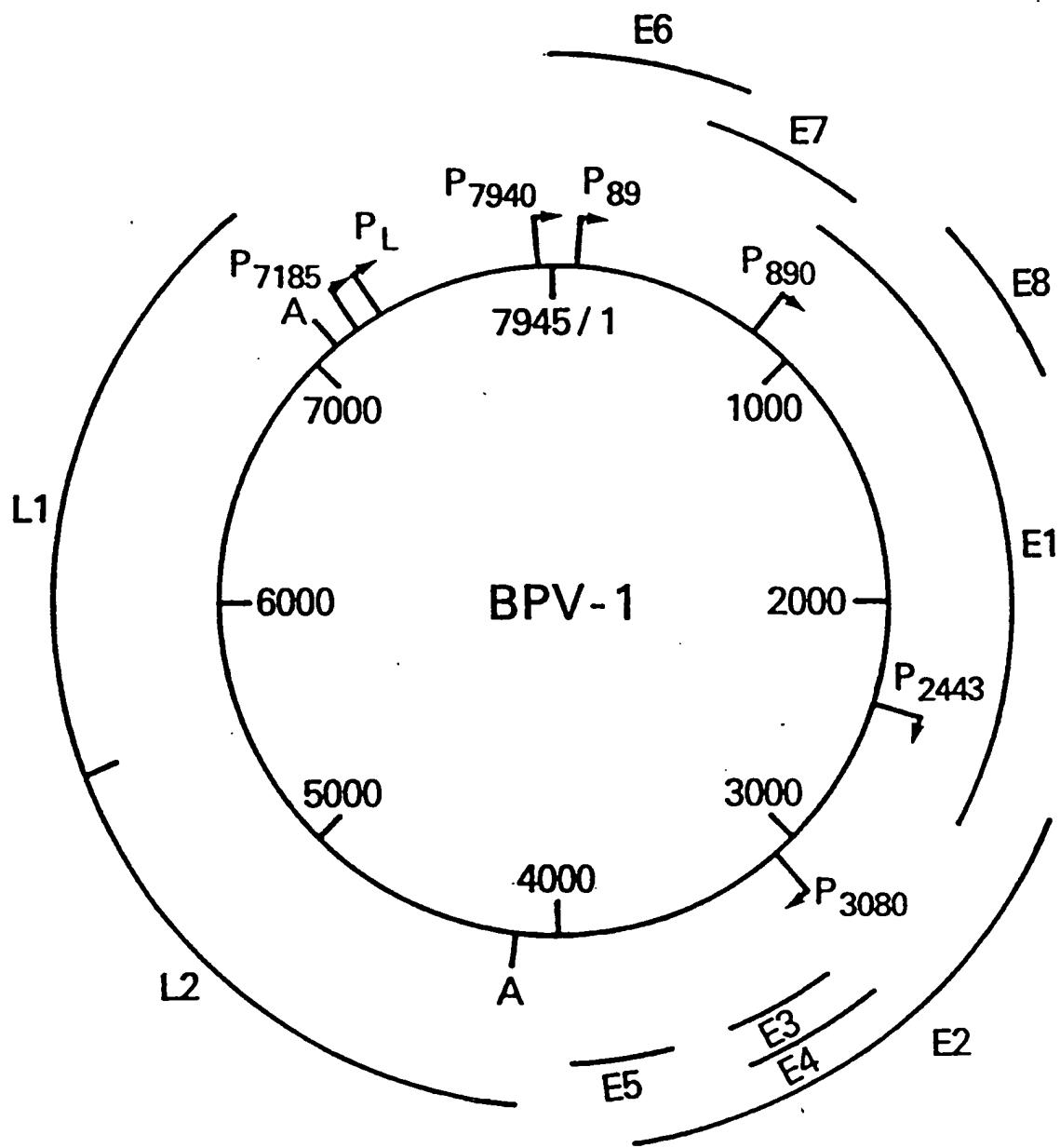


Figure 3

**FIG. 4**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US93/11666

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :C12N 15/00; A61K 31/70
US CL :435/172.3, 320.1; 512/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/172.3, 320.1; 512/44

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, Chemical Abstracts

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Cell, Volume 42, issued August 1985, B.A. Spalholz et al., "Transactivation of a Bovine Papilloma Virus Transcriptional Regulatory Element by the E2 Gene Product", pages 183-191, especially page 188, col. 2, lines 1-2 and page 187, col. 2, lines 9-14.	1-39
X	J. Virology, Volume 60, Number 2, issued November 1986, M. Lusky et al., "A Bovine Papilloma Virus Type 1-Encoded Modulator Function is Dispensable for Transient Viral Replication but is Required for Establishment of the Stable Plasmid Site", pages 729-742, especially page 738, col. 1, parag. 2, lines 1-4 and 9-12.	1-39

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
*	Special categories of cited documents:	"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Z"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
09 MARCH 1994	MAR 17 1994
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer Deborah Crouch, Ph.D. Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US93/11666

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Molec. and Cell Biol., Volume 1, Number 6, issued June 1981, N. Sarver et al., "Bovine Papilloma Virus Deoxyribonucleic Acid: A Novel Eucaryotic Cloning Vector", pages 486-496, see entire document.	1-39
X	J. of Pediatrics, Volume 110, Number 1, issued 28-29 January 1987, F.D. Ledley, "Somatic Gene Therapy for Human Disease: Background and Prospects. Part I", pages 1-8, see entire document.	1-39